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Monday, 16 May 2011

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The SEC and UCC Respond as Hundreds of Homes are Destroyed in Waves of Severe Weather

This is an Alert on How You May Assist in This Time of Need

Devastating storms Wednesday spawned deadly tornadoes that moved across Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama. The purpose of this email is to alert you to the ways in which you and your congregation may respond to this catastrophe and to let you know how the **Southeast Conference** is responding. Currently, UCC churches across the Southeast Conference are providing immediate relief in their communities to those in need of food and water.

Southeast Conference FAQ's

Who is the SEC?

Who is the UCC?

How Do I Find a UCC Church?

What Ministries are Available?

Is Training Available?



AFP/Getty Images - Jessica McGowan

The **United Church of Christ's Disaster Ministries** anticipates participating in an ecumenical effort to assist people to repair and rebuild homes.

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal declared four northwestern counties disaster areas after storms and tornadoes blew through the area. Governors of Mississippi and Alabama

of Mississippi and Alabama

also declared disaster areas, emergency management officials said.

In Alabama, the National Guard dispatched hundreds of personnel to some of the state's hardest hit areas. President Barack Obama announced late Wednesday he approved Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley's request for emergency federal assistance, including search and rescue support.

"While we may not know the extent of the damage for days, we will continue to monitor these severe storms across the country and stand ready to continue to help the people across the southeast and all citizens affected by these storms," Obama said in a statement. Most of the 154 tornado sightings reported to the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, were from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee, AccuWeather.com reported.

From Tim Downs - Here is What is Currently Happening:

1. The **United Church of Christ** has launched an emergency appeal to the entire church, and it is posted on www.ucc.org.

2. I have appointed [Angie Wright](#) and **LeNard Brown** to be our coordinators in response to this disaster, and I am working with our colleague in the national offices to get them the credentials they need to have access to the sites of damage.

3. Gifts are Being Given via Congregations in "Special Offerings."

If you wish to send contributions through the [Southeast Conference](#) we will also accept checks made out to "Southeast Conference UCC", and note in the memo **"OGHS Alabama Tornado Relief."** You may donate online at the SEC by clicking button to the right.

4. Through **One Great Hour of Sharing** the SEC has already requested a \$2000 grant in aid to each of our churches which have members that have incurred losses in the tornadoes.

5. Online Donations are Being Made.

Make a secure online donation to the [OGHS International Disaster Relief Fund](#). Mark the gift being made for **"OGHS Tornado Relief."**



OGHS Alabama Tornado Relief

6. Clean Up and Hygiene Kits are Being Donated.

Support of this program helps to ensure kits are available for immediate response after a disaster in another part of the world and here in the United States. For more information on kits follow link to [Church World Service](#) organization.

Our SECUCC Members:

A number of you have asked what impact the tornadoes have had on our churches and their membership. This is what I know:

- > Two families in Beloved Community UCC, Birmingham have lost their homes.
- > Two families of Trinity Congregational UCC, Athens, AL have had significant damage, one family lost their home and car, and another lost the roof on their house.
- > One member of United Church Huntsville had a tree go through her roof. The church is mobilizing to help secure her house and prevent further damage.
- > Two families of Church of the Savior UCC, Knoxville sustained damage to homes.

Please Pray for people who live in communities affected by tornadoes. Feel free to be in touch with me for any further information or details.

Thank you for your compassion and support.

[Timothy C. Downs.](#)
Conference Minister

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www.secucc.org

Latest News

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SECUCC CONTACTS

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SECUCC RESOURCES

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FAVORITE LINKS

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- ▶ The Center for Progressive Renewal
- ▶ United Church of Christ
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EVENTS CALENDAR

May 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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